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Strasbourg, 3 January 2025

**19TH MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE
DIALOGUE WITH ROMA AND TRAVELLER¹ CIVIL SOCIETY**

**DRAFT COUNCIL OF EUROPE STRATEGY ON ROMA AND TRAVELLER INCLUSION
(2026-2030)**

**Strasbourg, 2-3 April 2025
Palais de l'Europe, Room 10**

DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE

BACKGROUND

The regular dialogue events with Roma and Traveller civil society organisations aim to:

1. reinforce the regular dialogue between the Council of Europe and Roma communities on all policy issues relevant for Roma inclusion
2. stimulate the regular dialogue between member states and Roma organisations at national level
3. provide input to the various organs and entities of the Council of Europe on the effectiveness and appropriateness of their operational programmes, monitoring mechanisms and political initiatives, with due respect for their independent character and mandates.
4. increase the capacity of Roma and Traveller civil society organisations and to build expertise and knowledge of the Council of Europe standards and monitoring mechanisms, relevant for Roma and Traveller inclusion.

The 19th meeting of the Council of Europe dialogue with Roma and Traveller civil society focuses on the draft Council of Europe Strategy on Roma and Traveller Inclusion (2026-2030).

¹ The term "Roma and Travellers" is used at the Council of Europe to encompass the wide diversity of the groups covered by the work of the Council of Europe in this field: on the one hand a) Roma, Sinti/Manush, Calé, Kaale, Romanichals, Boyash/Rudari; b) Balkan Egyptians (Egyptians and Ashkali); c) Eastern groups (Dom, Lom and Abdal); and, on the other hand, groups such as Travellers, Yenish, and the populations designated under the administrative term "Gens du voyage", as well as persons who identify themselves as Gypsies. The present is an explanatory footnote, not a definition of Roma and/or Travellers.

The policy framework in the area of Roma and Travellers inclusion is translated into the [Strategic Action Plan for Roma and Traveller Inclusion](#), adopted in 2020. Its implementation will be finalised by the end of 2025.

The [mid-term review of the Strategic Action Plan](#) highlights progress made in the three priority areas and in better mainstreaming Roma and Traveller issues across the work of the entire Organisation. It was highlighted that the Council of Europe was able to make a difference for Roma and Travellers by advocating for changes in the member States and supporting them in their endeavours. Key achievements before the mid-term review include strengthening local authorities' capacities to address the needs of Roma and Traveller communities, empowering Roma women, enhancing their participation in decision-making processes, monitoring their situation during the COVID-19 pandemic, and bolstering community resilience. Additionally, member states improved their response to the pandemic by supporting local initiatives and promoting inclusive education.

Challenges are still being reported in areas such as antigypsyism, school segregation, housing, employment, by Council of Europe monitoring bodies², the European Court of Human Rights³ and Roma and Traveller civil society alike⁴. The Committee of Ministers continues to supervise the execution of several judgments on complex topics such as school segregation, housing, ill-treatment by law enforcement agents and investigation of racial motivation of crimes⁵.

Moving forward, a renewed commitment through 2030 is deemed necessary to continue combatting antigypsyism and ensure equality and inclusion for Roma and Travellers in the Council of Europe member States. The Committee of Experts on Roma and Travellers Issues (ADI-ROM) has been tasked to draft the Council of Europe Strategy on Roma and Travellers Inclusion (2020-2025) before the end of 2025. A Working Group has been constituted in May 2024, with the participation of several representatives of the Council of Europe member States and civil society organisations, observers to ADI-ROM.

The Working Group is supported by its Secretariat (Roma and Travellers Team) and the drafting has been based on reports on the implementation of the Strategic Action Plan for Roma and Traveller Inclusion (2020-2025) inside and outside the Organisation, findings and recommendations of Council of Europe monitoring bodies and inputs from member States and civil society organisations. The Strategy and its content will be aligned with the essential in-house strategic and policy documents, as well as the ones of external partners and organisations in the field of Roma and Traveller inclusion.

The participants to the 19th Dialogue meeting will have the opportunity to exchange with the members of ADI-ROM, by partly joining the 11th meeting of the ADI-ROM Committee session in April 2025.

OBJECTIVES OF THE 19TH DIALOGUE MEETING

The 19th meeting of the Council of Europe Dialogue with Roma and Traveller civil society will provide an opportunity for a broad exchange on relevant challenges faced by Roma and

² ECRI, [Fifth Report on Azerbaijan](#), 21.06.2023, ECRI, [Fifth Report on Georgia](#), 22.06.2023, ECRI, [Sixth Report on Hungary](#), 09.03.2023, ECRI, [Sixth Report on Cyprus](#), 07.03.2023, ECRI, [Conclusions on the Czech Republic](#), 10.03.2023, [Conclusions on the Slovak Republic](#), 10.03.2023, Advisory Committee of FCNM, Fifth Opinion on Italy, 13.02.2023, Fifth Opinion on the United Kingdom, 25.05.2023, Fifth Opinion on Kosovo, 26.05.2023

³ See recent judgments from 2022 and 2023 in the [Factsheet on Roma and Travellers](#), updated in July 2024 by the Press Unit of the European Court of Human Rights.

⁴ See [Conclusions and recommendations of the 14th Dialogue meeting](#)

⁵ See [Conclusions and recommendations of the 16th Dialogue meeting](#)

Travellers in Europe and on possible actions from the Council of Europe, in line with its mandate. The discussion will contribute to setting the ground for the work on developing the next policy framework of the Council of Europe in the area of Roma and Travellers inclusion.

The meeting will:

- Present the Council of Europe Strategic Action Plan for Roma and Traveller Inclusion (2020-2025) and provide an overview of its implementation
- Collect proposals on how to further develop co-operation between the Council of Europe and Roma and Traveller civil society and the future agenda of the Council of Europe bi-annual dialogue meetings with Roma and Traveller civil society
- Serve as a co-operative and networking platform for Roma and Traveller civil society organisations and other stakeholders
- Serve as a platform for extending the knowledge of Council of Europe work in this area, exchanging experiences and sharing best practices on Roma inclusion, including with members of the Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Inclusion (ADI-ROM)
- Highlight and exchange examples of good practice in addressing obstacles to Roma and Traveller inclusion
- Bring forward solutions to advance Roma and Travellers inclusion which can be incorporated in the future actions of the Council of Europe;
- Identify possible topics that should be included in the future Council of Europe Strategy on Roma and Travellers Inclusion.

PARTICIPATION

- 25 civil society participants will be chosen through an open call disseminated via the public website of the Council of Europe's Roma and Travellers Division. Participants will be representatives of Roma and Traveller organisations, including representatives of youth and women organisations, and experts from international, national and local civil society organisations. Priority is given to representatives who hold specific expertise regarding the different priorities of the Council of Europe Strategic Action Plan for Roma and Traveller Inclusion (2020-2025), and that have been co-operating with the Council of Europe.

Participants must be competent to work in English or French or Romani, the working languages of the meeting.

- Members of the Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Inclusion (ADI-ROM) (for a part of the meeting)
- Members of the Roma and Travellers Division who implement the current Strategic Action Plan
- Members of other departments of the Council of Europe and of the Inter-Secretariat Task Force who are mainstreaming Roma and Traveller issues into their respective areas of work, whose activities support the implementation of the current Council of Europe Strategic Action Plan for Roma and Traveller Inclusion (2020-2025) and can inform the development of the next policy framework in the area of Roma and Traveller inclusion.

DATES AND VENUE

The meeting will take place on 2 April 2025, from 09:00-17:00 and on 3 April 2024 from 09:30 to 15:15 – in Strasbourg, France.

Travel and subsistence expenses, as well as visa fees, if necessary, related to the participation in this 19th Dialogue meeting will be reimbursed according to Council of Europe rules and regulations.

Working and background documents:

- Agenda of the 19th Dialogue meeting
- Concept Note of the 19th Dialogue meeting

OTHER COUNCIL OF EUROPE INSTRUMENTS AND TOOLS

- [Council of Europe Strategic Action Plan on Roma and Traveller Inclusion 2020-2025;](#)
- [First Implementation Report of the Strategic Action plan for Roma and Travellers Inclusion \(2020-2025\)](#)
- [Mid-Term Review Report on the Implementation of the Strategic Action Plan for Roma and Traveller Inclusion \(2020-2025\)](#)
- [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2024\)1 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on equality of Roma and Traveller women and girls and Explanatory Memorandum](#)
- [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2023\)4 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on Roma youth participation](#)
- [Feasibility study on desegregation and inclusion policies and practices in the field of education for Roma and Traveller children \(2024\)](#)
- [Antigypsyism - Causes – Prevalence – Consequences – Possible responses \(2022\)](#)
- [Thematic report of the ADI-ROM on early Childhood Education, Athens & Nafplio \(Greece, 20-22 September 2023\)](#)
- [Thematic report of the ADI-ROM on how to stimulate governments to employ Roma and Travellers in governmental institutions and public administration \(Skopje, North Macedonia, 20-22 June 2022\)](#)